Restrictions on trucks carrying loose iron rods

3076. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has not stopped trucks and vehicles from carrying loose iron rods without proper safety measures;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps would be taken to restrict movement of the dangerious loaded lorries and trucks on the National Highways; and

(d) by when such restrictions would be imposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) Vehicular movement on roads is governed by the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. Section 115 of the MV Act gives powers to the State Governments to restrict the use of vehicles, which affect public safety or convenience. The Section 190 of MV Act provides for punishment for Carriage of Goods which are dangerous or hazardous nature to human life. Under Rule 93 of CMV Rules, the overall dimensions of transport vehicles have been prescribed. Enforcement of the provisions of MV Act and CMV Rules is done by the respective States/UTs. National Highways Authority of India have no authority to check the movement of vehicles which affect public safety or convenience.

Grant for national highways in Karnataka

3077. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been submitted by the Public Works Department of Karnataka requesting for allocation of Rs. 35 crores as additional grants under the National Highways Original Works for the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present stage of consideration of the proposal and by when it would be approved and funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request for additional allocation of Rs. 35.1 crores under NH(O) works during 2002-03 was received from the State PWD, Karnataka on 8-1-2003.

(c) Keeping in view availability of funds an additional allocation of Rs. 10.40 crores was made available for Karnataka.

Trans Asian Highway Network

3078. SHRI MAJOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had some time back visualised a major Highway Project-Trans Asian Network linking Thailand, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a reference thereto was briefly made by the Prime Minister in the ASEAN meet held last year;

(d) whether any progress has since been made in relation thereto; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The route connecting Indo/Pakistan Border-Delhi-Kolkata—Indo/Bangladesh Border-Dhaka-Indo/Bangladesh Border-Shillong-Imphal-Moreh has been conceptualised as a part of the Asian Highway connecting India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand among other countries of Asia.

(c) to (e) No specific remark had been made by the Prime Minister in the ASEAN meet held last year. However, in general terms the Prime Minister did call for cooperation for the upgrading and strengthening of physical linkages, *inter-alia* through optimizing